

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A numnah for interposition between a saddle and an animal to be ridden, the numnah comprising:

    a first layer comprising a base layer having an open cell structure, wherein the base layer comprises a polyurethane foam and at least 50% recycle polyurethane foam, and the base layer having an Asker type C hardness in the range of 10 to 35 and a water absorption capacity of at least 300% of its own weight; and

    a second layer disposed adjacent to the first layer, the second layer being in the form of a cover fabric having an open structure constructed and arranged to be applied against the back of the animal to be ridden, wherein the numnah has a thickness in the range of 2 to 20 mm.

8. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 7, wherein the base layer has a water absorption capacity of at least 320% of its own weight.

9. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 7, wherein the base layer has a water absorption capacity of at least 500% of its own weight.

10. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 7, wherein the base layer contains activated carbon.

11. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 9, wherein the base layer contains activated carbon.

12. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 7, wherein the base layer has an air permeability of 150 – 300 l/m<sup>2</sup>sec.

13. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 9, wherein the base layer has

an air permeability of  $150 - 300 \text{ l/m}^2\text{sec}$ .

14. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 10, wherein the base layer has an air permeability of  $150 - 300 \text{ l/m}^2\text{sec}$ .

15. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 7, wherein the numnah has an edge and at least a part of the edge is curved inwards.

16. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 9, wherein the numnah has an edge and at least a part of the edge is curved inwards.

17. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 10, wherein the numnah has an edge and at least a part of the edge is curved inwards.

18. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 12, wherein the numnah has an edge and at least a part of the edge is curved inwards.

19. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 7, wherein the base layer consists of a Poliyou® foam.

20. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 9, wherein the base layer consists of a Poliyou® foam.

21. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 10, wherein the base layer consists of a Poliyou® foam.

22. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 12, wherein the base layer consists of a Poliyou® foam.

23. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 15, wherein the base layer consists of a Poliyou® foam.

24. (Previously Presented) A numnah according to claim 7, further comprising a thin outer layer disposed adjacent to the first layer.

25. (New) A numnah for interposition between a saddle and an animal to be ridden, the numnah comprising:

a first layer comprising a base layer having an open cell structure, wherein the base layer comprises a polyurethane foam and at least 50% recycle polyurethane foam, and the base layer having an Asker type C hardness in the range of 10 to 35, a permeability to air of 150 to 300 l/m<sup>2</sup>sec., and a water absorption capacity of at least 300% of its own weight;

a second layer disposed adjacent to the first layer, the second layer being in the form of a cover fabric having an open structure constructed and arranged to be applied against the back of the animal to be ridden, wherein the numnah has a thickness in the range of 2 to 20 mm; and

an outer layer disposed adjacent to the first layer and facing outward from an animal when used on the animal, wherein at least a part of an edge of the numnah is curved inwards to prevent the numnah from becoming folded upwards during use on the animal.

26. (New) A numnah for interposition between a saddle and an animal to be ridden, the numnah comprising:

a first layer comprising a base layer having an open cell structure, wherein the base layer comprises a polyurethane foam and at least 50% recycle polyurethane foam, and the base layer having an Asker type C hardness in the range of 10 to 35, a permeability to air of 150 to 300 l/m<sup>2</sup>sec., and a water absorption capacity of at least 300% of its own weight;

a second layer disposed adjacent to the first layer, the second layer being in the form of a cover fabric having an open structure constructed and arranged to be applied against the back of the animal to be ridden, wherein the numnah has a thickness in the range of 2 to 20 mm; and

an outer layer disposed adjacent to the first layer and facing outward from an animal when used on the animal; and

a ribbon sewn to an edge of the numnah by means of a sewing machine using feeder elements on both sides of the ribbon to prevent the numnah from becoming folded upwards during use on an animal.